To His Grace, Her Majesties High Commissioner, And Honourable Estates of Parliament, The Humble Addresse of a Considerable Body of People in the South and Western Shires. Scotland K 3

SHEWETH,

WE Underwritten being Commissionate and Appointed by Many Christian Societies in the South and Western Shires of this Kingdom for the Effect following, considering how much the Union treated of at present, may be of dangerous Consequence to the Civil and Sacred Liberties and Concerns of this Nation; and how it is like, if carryed on, to involve the Nation in much Guilt. While,

1*mo*. We Incorporate with a Nation deeply Guilty of many National Abominations, who have openly Broke and Burnt their Covenant with GOD, and League with Us, entered into in the Year 1643. Are Sworn to the Maintainance of Abjured Prelacie, have their Publick and Established Worship horridly Corrupted with Superstition and Idolatrie; And their Doctrine dreadfully Leavened with *Socinianism* and *Arminianism*; Besides the most Gross and Deeply Lamentable Prophaneness that abounds amongst them.

2*do*. We would thereby bind up our Hands from Prosecuting the Ends of Our League and Covenant, while Incorporating with them upon Terms quite Prejudicial thereunto, And such as whereby we could not but dishonour Our GOD, and bring His Wrath upon us, on this Account; And hence for our parts, the Fear of GOD makes us abhore any thoughts of thus Imbodying with them, or of any Union whatsoever of that sort, without making this Our joint Covenant the Primary and Foundamental Article thereof.

3*tio*. We can never for Our Parts Own or Connive at the Civil Places of Church Men; and that Bishops should have a Legislative Power, and Authority over Us; Yea, We Reckon the Title of Spiritual Lords, given to them as Blasphemous, *The Lord CHRIST being the One Onely LORD in His Own House*. 4*to*. It is an Extream Grivance to Us, to think, That not only the Interests of the Church of *England* should be secured by an Oath of Abjuration, while that of Ours is left to the Will and Discretion of the *English in a British Parliament*. But withall, for any thing we See or Hear of as yet; Many in this Nation will be Obliged to take the said Oath: Which considering the 2d. Act of Parliament, To which it refers, cannot be done, without both Inferring Guilt on Our Part, Endangering Our Church, and inevitably causing many Jealousies, Heart-burnings, and most grievous Ruptures amongst Us.

5*to*. When we think how the Great GOD, who fixes the Bounds of Peoples Habitations, has granted to us this Land; And by a very peculiar Providence has Preserved Us as a FREE NATION, these 2000 Years, when many other Nations Greater and Mightier than We have been Dispersed, and their Memory extinct; How unaccountable does it appear to Us, that We should Destroy our Selves, and make a Voluntar surrender of Our *Liberties, Soveraignity, and Independency*; And that when Our GOD has so Often interposed by a Marvellous Providence for our Deliverance and Defence, from the Encroachments and Invasions of Forraigners, and Injurious Neighbours: We should now distrust Our PROTECTOR, and chuse *England* for the Ground of our Confidence our Shield and Stay; Which as we look upon as contrary to GOD's

BRITISH MUSEUM

Word; So likewise to Our SACRED COVENANTS, Whereby according thereto we are bound to maintain the *Priviledges of Our Parliaments, and Liberties of the Subjects.*

6to. We cannot see what Security we can have for what ever is Dear to Us, that We need to have Secured in caise of an *Incorporating Union with England*, save only their Bare Promise, who have broken the most Solem Tyes of Sacred Engagements, and all Bonds of Friendship, Confederacy and Neighbourhood, these Hundred Years bygone, to the extream Hurt, and Hazard both of Our Church and State, and have even still, since ever we came under One Head with them, been in Appearance seeking our Ruine.

7mo. For any thing we can see, if this Union should go on, either we behoved to Ruine our Selves by Submitting to a Toleration, Destructive to our own Government and Dicipline; Or else to put Our Honest Neighbours, (some of the Dissenters,) in *England*, in hazard of Loing theirs, since it will no doubt be pleaded, that the Dissenters in both Parts of the Nation should be equally dealt with; And yet for Us we cannot without Horror think of the Sin, and Sinful Consequences of a Toleration here.

8vo. Our Hearts do Tremble to think what bitter Fruites of Faction, Parties, and Incureable Breaches the going into this Union may produce, and how easie an Access this thro' the great Ferment of the Nation may make for the pretended King *James the Eight*, to come to the Throne; At least, We cannot understand how this Union can put a Barr thereupon, but rather have strong and not groundless Fears of its tending to the contrary. And as to the matter of Rents, and Irritation among these in our Bounds, We are very sure that they who have hitherto complained of the continuance, by Act of Parliament, of so many Prelatists in Churches, of the Connivance at Others in Meeting Houses, of Incroachments made on Assemblies in their Adjournments and Dissolution; and otherwise also in the matter of Fasts and Oaths; And of the not duly Executing of good Laws against Papists, Quakers, and Other Heretical and Profanely Scandalous Persons, will then have their Grievances greatly encreased, and who knows what may be the Issue thereof.

9no. We cannot see how it can consist with this Union, to Endeavor to bring to condign Punishment Malignants, or Enemies to Reformation, which is plain Duty in it self, and to which we stand Solemly engaged by our Covenants, Yea, such being readiest to take the Sacramental Test of *England*, are nearest to Advancement; And no SCOT's Man can be Advanced in *England* without it, whereas any *English Man* may be in place of Trust in *Scotland*, how opposit soever to our Government.

Upon all which and many moe such Weighty Reasons, we could offer, and are offered by others, who seek the welfare of the Church, and Kingdom, Tho we Solemnly Protest and Profess, that we are not against an Union in the LORD, *with England, And such as may be consistent with the Liberty of our Nation, and with our Sacred Covenants, and Security of our Church, Yet we cannot but also Protest, Like as hereby we do protest against this Union as Moulded in the Printed Articles; Neither do we judge our selves bound thereby, tho a prevailing Party in Parliament should conclude the same; But will stand by such Noble Patriots, with Life and Fortune, as are for the Maintenance and Defence of the Nations Independancy and* Freedom, *and this Churches Just Power, and Proper Priviledges, Conform to our attained Reformation from* 1638 *to* 1649.

This in Name of many Christian Societies United into a Considerable Body of People, in the South and Western Shires of this Kingdom, is Subscribed this 12*th day of November,* 1706 *Years,*

BRITISH 23.06.90 MUSEUM